

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10  
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2690  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01776

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: UNHRC  
SUBJECT: 34TH SESSION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: STATE 22442

1. WE REVIEWED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH FOREIGN OFFICE (UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT) ON FEB 1. FCO CONFIRMED UK AND US VIEWS ARE VERY CLOSE ON ALL ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED REFTEL, WITH FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

2. 1503 PROCEDURES: BRITISH SUPPORT MORE INTENSIVE AND MORE POLITICALLY-BALANCED USE OF 1503 PROCEDURES, INCLUDING MORE FORTHRIGHT HRC ACTION ON CASES REFERRED TO IT.

3. UGANDA. UK WISHES TO ENSURE DEBATE AND AN EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF UGANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, AND IS ALSO PREPARED TO HAVE SUBJECT AIRED IN OPEN SESSION. HOWEVER, FCO IS MILDLY CONCERNED TO AVOID IMPRESSION OF UK VENDETTA AGAINST UGANDA AND IS LOOKING TO OTHERS (E.G., SWEDEN) TO TAKE LEAD.

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4. HCHR. FCO SOURCE OPINED THAT WESTERN SUPPORTERS OF HCHR PROPOSAL ARE EXHAUSTED AFTER UNGA BATTLES, BUT ADDED UK BELIEVES IDEA MUST BE KEPT ALIVE AND SUPPORTS US IDEA OF POSITIVE ACTION BY HRC ON HCHR PROPOSALS. FCO ALSO TOOK NOTE OF USG RECEPTIVENESS TO SUGGESTIONS FOR REMOVING DOUBTS

ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF HCHR (E.G., FLEXIBILITY ON TITLE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER) AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MORE DETAILED US THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. ARAB-ISRAEL. FCO SAID UK DEL TO HRC HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED ALONG SIMILAR LINES TO MAKE DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM AS SHORT AND NON-CONTENTIOUS AS POSSIBLE.

6. ELECTIONS TO HRC SUB-COMMISSION ON PROTECTION OF MINORITIES. IN RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACH, FCO NOTED UK EXPERT (BEN WHITAKER) IS ALSO UP FOR RE-ELECTION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEIR SUPPORT FOR AMB CARTER WILL BE RECIPROCATED BY USG.

7. CAMBODIA. WE MENTIONED DEPT'S APPROACH (REFTEL) FOR SUPPORTING UK INITIATIVE ON CAMBODIA, FOR WHICH FCO SOURCE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF UK CANVASSING SHOW FRENCH "HELPFUL" BUT UNWILLING TO CO-SPONSOR, WHILE SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA WILL CO-SPONSOR.

8. TORTURE. FCO'S ONLY COMMENT ON HRC AGENDA ITEMS NOT MENTIONED REFTTEL WAS TO NOTE THAT ICJ DRAFT ON TORTURE, MAKING IT AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME, RAISED CONSIDERABLE LEGAL DIFFICULTIES FOR HMG. FCO SEES LITTLE HOPE OF WORKING OUT DRAFT CONVENTION AT HRC SESSION AND SUPPORTS REMISSION OF ICJ AND SWEDISH DRAFT TEXTS TO OPEN-ENDED  
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WORKING GROUP.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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20 Mar 2014  
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